

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
NORTHERN DIVISION**

RICHARD B. KENDERDINE, Special Administrator of the ESTATE OF VIVIAN C. KENDERDINE, DECEASED,

Plaintiff,  
vs.

ROSLYN ELEVATOR AND MARCIA R. SCHMIDT,

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO.: 1:20-cv-1030

**COMPLAINT  
AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

COMES NOW Plaintiff, Richard B. Kenderdine, as Special Administrator of the Estate of Vivian C. Kenderdine, Deceased, by and through his attorneys of record, and for his causes of action against Defendants Roslyn Elevator and Marcia R. Schmidt, state and allege as follows:

**THE PARTIES**

1. Plaintiff Richard B. Kenderdine (hereinafter “R. Kenderdine”) was appointed Special Administrator of the Estate of Vivian C. Kenderdine by the Third Judicial Circuit Court, Codington County, South Dakota, on October 2, 2020, Estate of Vivian C. Kenderdine, Pro. #20-45. R. Kenderdine was the husband of decedent, Vivian C. Kenderdine (hereinafter “Vivian”) and is a resident of Manitoba, Canada. R. Kenderdine asserts claims on behalf of Vivian, her estate and her heirs.

2. Vivian was born on August 11, 1951 and died from injuries sustained in the collision that is the subject of this lawsuit on June 11, 2019.

3. Vivian was a resident of Manitoba, Canada. She was married to R. Kenderdine and has three surviving children, Tara-Leigh Adele Nield, Quinn Campbell Kenderdine, and Richard Thomas Dalton Kenderdine.

4. Defendant Roslyn Elevator is a corporation organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of South Dakota, with its principal place of business in Roslyn, Day County, South Dakota. It operates as a grain elevator.

5. Defendant Marcia R. Schmidt (hereinafter "Schmidt") was at all times material hereto a resident of Roslyn, Day County, South Dakota, and was an employee and principal officer of Roslyn Elevator.

## **JURISDICTION**

6. Jurisdiction is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332 in that Plaintiff's residency is diverse from that of all Defendants. Further, the damages amount at issue in this case exceeds \$75,000.

## **FACTS**

7. On June 11, 2019, at approximately 10:57 a.m., Defendant Schmidt was traveling southbound on Interstate 29 (hereinafter "I-29") north of Watertown, Codington County, South Dakota.

8. Defendant Schmidt was operating a white 2016 Ford F150, bearing South Dakota license plate 22E541.

9. The vehicle Schmidt was driving was owned by Defendant Roslyn Elevator. Schmidt was an agent of Roslyn Elevator and was authorized by Roslyn

Elevator to operate the vehicle on June 11, 2019 at the time and place of the collision.

10. Schmidt was driving her vehicle with the cruise control set at 82 mph.

11. The speed limit on I-29 where Schmidt was driving was 80 mph.

12. On the morning of June 11, 2019, Vivian was also traveling southbound on I-29 north of Watertown, Codington County, South Dakota.

13. Vivian was driving a purple 2008 Harley Davidson motorcycle, bearing Manitoba license 9CB07.

14. Vivian and her two friends on their own motorcycles were traveling from Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota to Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas for an all-woman motorcycle rally.

15. On the morning of June 11, 2019, at the location of the crash scene, the temperature was 61 degrees Fahrenheit with an overcast and cloudy sky and visibility was ten miles.

16. While traveling southbound on I-29, at approximately 10:49 a.m., Vivian and her two friends stopped on the far-right side of the shoulder of I-29 under the 161<sup>st</sup> Street bridge overpass for several minutes.

17. A few minutes after stopping, Vivian and her two friends checked for traffic, signaled their intent to merge onto the roadway and drove their motorcycles from the shoulder into the driving lane.

18. Shortly after entering the roadway, Vivian was struck from behind by Schmidt.

19. The impact violently separated Vivian from her motorcycle. Vivian came to rest in the median of I-29, where she eventually succumbed to the injuries received in the collision.

20. Schmidt said she did not see Vivian or her two friends prior to impact and did not perceive any of the three motorcycles ahead of her on the roadway.

21. Nothing prevented Schmidt from seeing Vivian and her friends, had she been keeping a proper lookout for traffic.

22. The southbound passing lane of I-29 where the collision occurred was clear of traffic and nothing prevented Schmidt from moving into that lane to avoid the impact.

23. In driving carelessly, following too closely, failing to move over when overtaking Vivian's motorcycle and in speeding, Schmidt was in violation of SDCL §§ 32-24-8, 32-26-40, 36-26-26, and 32-25-4, respectively.

**COUNT 1  
WRONGFUL DEATH**

24. Plaintiff realleges all preceding paragraphs as if set forth herein.

25. Vivian sustained violent and catastrophic injuries as a result of the reckless and negligent actions of Defendant Schmidt, which resulted in the death of Vivian.

26. The negligence of Defendant Schmidt was the direct and proximate cause of the death of Vivian.

27. Defendant Schmidt's actions as described in this complaint were the legal cause of the substantial injuries and damages to Vivian and her heirs,

including, but not limited to, pain, suffering, mental anguish, wrongful death, funeral expenses, the loss of love, support, aide, counsel, society, companionship, guidance, services, loss of income and property damage in an amount to be proven at trial.

**COUNT 2  
SURVIVAL ACTION**

28. Plaintiff realleges all preceding paragraphs as if set forth herein.

29. Vivian did not die immediately as a result of the impact with Defendant Schmidt's vehicle. Vivian experienced terror and anguish in the sudden apprehension of imminent death and excruciating conscious pain and suffering. Defendant Schmidt is liable for all resulting conscious pain and suffering suffered by Vivian prior to her death pursuant to SDCL 15-4-1.

**COUNT 3  
RESPONDEAT SUPERIOR LIABILITY**

30. Plaintiff realleges all preceding paragraphs as if set forth herein.

31. At the time of the collision, Defendant Schmidt was acting within the course and scope of her employment with Defendant Roslyn Elevator, and was an agent of Roslyn Elevator.

32. It was foreseeable to Roslyn Elevator that Schmidt could be involved in, and cause, a collision while driving the vehicle owned by Roslyn Elevator.

33. As a result of Schmidt's relationship with Roslyn Elevator, Roslyn Elevator is responsible for all harms and losses legally caused by Schmidt's negligent actions.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests a judgment against Defendants as follows:

1. For compensatory and general damages in an amount which the jury determines is just and proper;
2. For special and economic damages in an amount which the jury determines is just and proper;
3. For Plaintiff's costs and disbursements herein;
4. For interest as provided by law; and
5. For any other and future relief which the Court determines is just and proper.

Dated this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November 2020.

/s/ William D. Sims

William D. Sims

Jeff Cole

NORTHERN PLAINS JUSTICE, LLP

4301 W. 57<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 121

Sioux Falls, SD 57108

T: (605) 306-4100

E: [Bill@northernplainsjustice.com](mailto:Bill@northernplainsjustice.com)

[JCole@northernplainsjustice.com](mailto:JCole@northernplainsjustice.com)

Attorneys for Plaintiff

**PLAINTIFF DEMANDS TRIAL BY JURY**

Comes now Plaintiff, Richard B. Kenderdine, as Special Administrator of the Estate of Vivian C. Kenderdine, Deceased, by and through one of his attorneys of record, and hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues triable of right by jury.

*/s/ William D. Sims*

One of the attorneys for Plaintiff

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

<b>I. (a) PLAINTIFFS</b>		<b>DEFENDANTS</b>		
<p><b>(b)</b> County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff _____  <i>(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)</i></p>		<p>County of Residence of First Listed Defendant _____  <i>(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)</i></p> <p>NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.</p>		
<p><b>(c)</b> Attorneys (<i>Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number</i>)</p>		<p>Attorneys (<i>If Known</i>)</p>		
<b>II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION</b> ( <i>Place an "X" in One Box Only</i> )		<b>III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES</b> ( <i>Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant</i> )		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Federal Question <i>(U.S. Government Not a Party)</i>		Citizen of This State <input type="checkbox"/> PTF <input type="checkbox"/> DEF Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State <input type="checkbox"/> PTF <input type="checkbox"/> DEF		
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 U.S. Government Defendant <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Diversity <i>(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)</i>		Citizen of Another State <input type="checkbox"/> PTF <input type="checkbox"/> DEF Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State <input type="checkbox"/> PTF <input type="checkbox"/> DEF		
		Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country <input type="checkbox"/> PTF <input type="checkbox"/> DEF Foreign Nation <input type="checkbox"/> PTF <input type="checkbox"/> DEF		
<b>IV. NATURE OF SUIT</b> ( <i>Place an "X" in One Box Only</i> )				
<a href="#">Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.</a>				
CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 <b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark
<b>REAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/ Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	<b>Habeas Corpus:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <b>Other:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	<b>LABOR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act	<b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))
				<b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609 <b>IMMIGRATION</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions
<b>V. ORIGIN</b> ( <i>Place an "X" in One Box Only</i> )				<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Original Proceeding <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Removed from State Court <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Remanded from Appellate Court <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Reinstated or Reopened <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Transferred from Another District (specify) <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File
Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing ( <i>Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity</i> ):				
<b>VI. CAUSE OF ACTION</b>		Brief description of cause:		
<b>VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:</b> <b>IF ANY</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.	DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: <b>JURY DEMAND:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>VIII. RELATED CASE(S)</b> <b>IF ANY</b>		<i>(See instructions):</i> JUDGE _____ DOCKET NUMBER _____		
DATE	SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD			
<b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</b>				
RECEIPT #	AMOUNT	APPLYING IFFP	JUDGE	MAG. JUDGE